venor Bank i.e. Andhra Bank in February, 1998 and April, 1998. These relief measures include no recovery of either principal or interest from the affected farmers for a period of two years; conversion/reschedulement of loan for a period of 7 years excluding initial moratorium period of two years; and sanction of fresh crop loans to the affected farmers, etc. The above mentioned relief measures are also, inter-alia, applicable to cotton growers.

Golden Jubilee Rural Housing Finance Scheme

2572. SHRI LAKKHIRAM AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the Golden Jubilee Rural Housing Finance Scheme announced by Finance Minister during the current year; and

(b) the details of the guidelines and the amount to be disbursed under the Scheme during the current year and 1999-2000?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) In pursuance of Finance Minister's Budget speech 1997-98, a special rural housing scheme known as Golden Jublee Rural Housing Finance Scheme (GJRHFS) was formulated and launched by National Housing Bank (NHB) on 15th August, 1997. For the first year disbursement target under the scheme was 50,000 numbers of loans for a total amount of Rs. 500 crore to be undertaken by various categories of retail lending institutions including the scheduled commercial banks scheme envisages provision of institutional credit upto Rs. 2 lakhs to individuals desirous of acquiring a new dwelling unit and upto Rs. 50,000/- for improving or addition to the existing dwelling unit in rural areas. During the current year i.e. 1998-99 a target of financing one lakh houses under the scheme has been set. Although no specific amounts has been indicated for this purpose, it is likely to be of the order of 1000 crores. Planned disbursement under the scheme for 1999-2000 has not been projected. The ceiling for granting loans under the captioned scheme has since been raised from Rs. 2 lakhs to Rs. 5 lakhs.

The advances granted under the scheme will be reckoned as Priority Sector advances of the bank.

New Policy Package to ease Excise Laws for Warehouses

2573. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to formulate a new policy package to ease excise laws for warehouses;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal and changes proposed to be effected in the Central Excise Act and Rules, procedural simplification and implications thereof;

(c) what is the time schedule for implementation of the changes proposed and present status of the proposal; and

(d) what is the reaction of Central warehousing and other related organisations to be proposed changes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) The Government has already implemented a newly formulated policy package for applying the warehousing procedures to excisable export goods by notification No. 2698-CE(NT) dated 15.7.98 and orders issued there under. This scheme is presently applicable to exports by Super Star Trading Houses, Star Trading Houses and Foreign Departmental Stores of repute. The warehouses can be established at Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Calcutta, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kanpur, Jaipur,